

Columbia River Gillnetter

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION

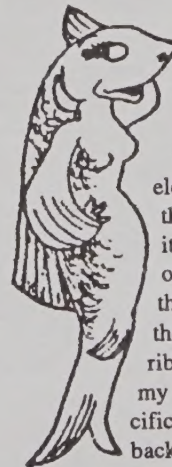
FALL / WINTER 1991



TWO THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

This 1916 photograph shows two big ones that didn't get away. These king salmon, both weighing in at about 115-120 pounds, were caught in a fish trap on the Skeena River in British Columbia, just below the town of Prince Rupert. Emil Urell, a fish smoker at Union Fish in Astoria, cured the salmon and shipped it to royalty in Europe in 100-pound wooden barrels.

(Photo courtesy R.L. Urell)



Sally the Salmon Says...

"Everybody knows that hydro-electric dams kill 95 percent of the salmon that *do* try to make it up the river. Gillnetters take only the surplus as declared by the biologists. Put ladders on the dams and screens on the terrible turbines and many more of my friends will make it to the Pacific, and many more will come back to spawn."

Young's Bay coho catch is the best ever... see page 6

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COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION
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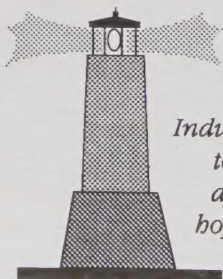
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FOREWORD



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Gillnetters shouldn't have to pay the price of saving salmon *by Don Riswick*

Germany's Rhine River.

Most would never compare its dank, polluted waters with the cool clear waters of the mighty Columbia, yet what happened to the Rhine one-hundred years ago is now happening to the Columbia.

At one time, the 830 miles of the Rhine, fed by the snow and ice of the Alps, was boiling with fish and other wildlife. Today the river is nothing but a virtually lifeless, dark mass of water, with only eels swimming in its depths. Temperatures average 75 degrees and more.

What happened? Just what's happening here in the Northwest — industry, farmers, transportation people and user groups could not agree on a plan to save the fish, and the fish didn't wait for them. Each group had its own agenda, and couldn't reach an agreeable compromise.

And as they say, time, tides and salmon wait for no man.

But let's face facts — it's already too late on the Snake, there's nothing we can do to bring them back now.

It was CRFPU that had the foresight back in the 1930s to step to the forefront and tell the constructing engineers at Bonneville Dam that fish ladders were essential and critical to maintaining fish runs on the river, when the original plans did not call for them.

They didn't want to listen at first, but congressmen like Wendell Wyatt helped us eventually convince the builders that it really was important.

It was CRFPU that spearheaded the attack on industrial river pollution in the 1960s. Oldtimers still talk about how black the nets used to come in over the power roller, it was that bad.

Politicians spoke out for us, and industry was forced to comply with the new regulations, and the water cleared. Sports fishermen did little to help this project, yet they are now enjoying healthy Willamette River runs which have tripled in the past ten years.

What would the Willamette look like today if the fishermen's union hadn't spoken out? How many fish would there be? And what would recreational fishing be like today if Bonneville had been put in place without fish ladders?

Sports fishermen don't think about that when they start screaming to get gillnets off the river.

We tried again at Grand Coulee in the late '30s, but to no avail, and it went on line in 1941 with no fish laddering or guiding system whatsoever.

Today Coulee is and has long been one

of the major killers of Columbia River salmon. It wiped out more than 1000 miles of spawning grounds — some 40 percent of the entire system.

There is nothing sadder than watching a mature salmon beat its head on the concrete wall over and over again. Just how did they expect the fish to negotiate the massive concrete structures and make it through the giant killer turbines?

They knew all along that dams would have an impact on fish. They just didn't know how high of a price we'd have to pay.

But it isn't the Columbia River gillnetter who should be picking up the tab.

We've already given up many days from our winter season — we only get about 12 days the last part of February up to about March 10 each year. After that, we get no fishing time at all until the end of August, when we're lucky to get a day or two before launching the early fall season.

Gillnetters haven't fished the Snake runs for over 25 years, so we certainly can't be blamed for the endangered listing which should have come twenty years ago. Only four salmon returned to the Snake this year, but considering what they had to go through to get there, it's a wonder any made it back at all.

Between 1940 and 1960, 57 hydroelectric dams were built on the Columbia. Most were constructed without fish-aiding systems, and thousands upon thousands of fish have been helplessly swept into the giant screenless turbines ever since.

It goes without saying that dams are the main cause of fish decline on the main stem Columbia and the Snake, not over-

fishing or anything else.

In the summer, the giant pools of water stored behind the massive concrete walls become giant hot tubs, with water temperatures soaring up to 80 degrees.

Before the dams, the freshet came down every June when the snow melted in the mountains, and carried the smolts to the ocean. The water was muddy, making the smolts invisible to predators.

And then there's Al Wright, who says commercial fishing doesn't support or benefit any Northwest communities. I don't know where he lives, but I know I can name at least two dozen or more communities, large and small, that live or die with the commercial fishing industry.

Don Godard, spokesperson for the Columbia River Alliance, a radical group with some big-name supporters who want to phase out gillnetting on the lower river by 1994, compares gillnetting to "a hunting season on spotted owls" and to "the slaughter of bison in the past century."

The agenda of the CRA includes maintaining a "vital river-based economy." How they plan to do this while wiping out an entire industry is anybody's guess, but they're surely not thinking about the thousands of Northwest workers who will be affected, like truck drivers, cannery workers, accountants, waitresses, grocers as well as hundreds of fishermen.

This group needs to focus on the real culprits that are killing our salmon, not on a user group that's already been cut down enough to become ineffective in the depletion of salmon.

Right now they've all got their heads in the sand.

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FROM THE
SECRETARY

After attending the Northwest Power Planning Council hearings in Longview and Portland in October, I was both inspired and impressed by the large attendance of Columbia River commercial fishermen, and thought the testifiers representing our side all did an outstanding, respectable job.

As I've said before, it's much easier to present a solid, viable case when you have the facts to back you up. It's clear that other user groups often tend to juggle the facts to get their points across, and this was true at these hearings as well.

A testifier myself at the Portland meeting, my suggestion to the council was that they be sure to use the facts when making their recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service, and not rely on various statements in the press which were somewhat less than true and accurate.

Like one newspaper article which said that the Tribal fishery is the best regulated fishery on the Columbia River, better than the Lower Columbia fishery. That's just not the case, as both fisheries are managed by the Columbia River Compact and have been for years.

This Compact has put us one step ahead of other user groups, as several of our fishing seasons have been curtailed or eliminated in order to protect endangered fish runs, beginning back in the 1960s.

Commercial fishermen believe we have done our part, but that's not to say we cannot do more.

The people responsible for the depletion of many fish runs on the river are actually not people at all — they're dams. The people responsible for the construction of the many concrete barriers on the river (most with inadequate or no fish-passage facilities at all) have not been penalized for their actions, yet they ask us, the harvesters who put food on the nation's table, to be penalized again.

Cutting back or eliminating commercial harvests is certainly not the answer. Nothing much has been said about other major harvesters of salmon, including the ever-increasing number of marine mammals.

The bottom line is all user groups must work together if we are to solve this problem. We all might have to give a little, by allowing greater drawdowns and flows which would allow a river depth of 12 feet or more at Vancouver, in the important months of May and June when the smolts are coming down the river.

—Jack Marincovich

Gillnetters make waves at public hearings

Columbia River Gillnetters up and down the river pulled their nets out of the water on the chilly, rainy afternoon of Monday, October 21 to attend one of a series of important public hearings conducted by the Northwest Power Planning Council.

The hearing, held at the Monticello Hotel in Longview, Wash., was filled to capacity with commercial fishermen and their interests who spoke out loudly against any attempts to further curtail the already ailing Northwest commercial fishing industry.

Most fishermen participated in the six-hour shutdown that afternoon in order to attend the hearing, and most gillnetters felt that the economic loss endured was a small price to pay. "Sure, I may have lost a fish or two," said one Mayger fisherman, "but it was just too important to miss. You're talking about my livelihood here," he said.

The hearings, an open forum for the council to gather public opinion before submitting a recommendation to the National Marine Fisheries Service, were important to the process of amending the council's controversial fish and wildlife policy program.

Panel testifiers from the local area included Jack Marincovich from the Columbia River Fishermen's Union, Bob Eaton of Salmon for All, Don Ivanoff of Astoria Marine Supply and Jon Englund of Englund Marine Supply.

The key points of the plan include proposals to augment water flows at critical times in order to aid fish migration in the Columbia and Snake rivers, as well as harvest restraints, fish habitat enhancement and better integration of hatchery and wild fish.

The plan covers all aspects of salmon and steelhead survival, and also says that the focus will be on main-stem species. The council has designated a "preferred flow option" plan, which increases the flow of the Snake and Columbia by holding back water in the fall and winter in below-average water years, so that it can be released to push fish downriver in the spring.

The flow proposal also calls for the lowering of four pools in the Snake River to increase water velocity, as well as additional water from the Hells Canyon dam complex, the Dworshak reservoir and water storage dams on the upper Snake.

Currently, only about 30 percent of all juvenile salmon survive, depending on river levels. The new plan could increase the survival rate to as much as 42 percent, a 30 percent improvement.

The drawdown in power generation from the stored water will increase Northwest power rates only about 3 percent per year, which seems to be a small price to pay if fish runs are benefitted at all.

The council will present its final proposal to the NMFS sometime before the end of the year.

Many CRFPU members serve on various agencies and advisory boards. Members are encouraged to contact individuals regarding specific issues, or call the Union office.

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First fish in 60 years returns to Yakima River

A glimmer of hope in the form of a mature sockeye salmon has returned to the Yakima River this summer — after more than sixty years of absence.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says the 7-pound sockeye was trapped at Roza Dam near Yakima (which has inadequate fish passage facilities in place) and moved to a holding pen for spawning.

"This is the most encouraging and exciting news we have received since NMFS began reviewing the status of wild salmon stocks in the Northwest," said Rolland Schmitten, regional director for the agency.

Later in the fall, several more adult sockeye found their way back to the Yakima. All were held in a holding pen then transferred to Seattle's NMFS Science Center, where their offspring will be kept.

The returning sockeye are the direct result of a four-year feasibility study into re-establishing the fish in Cle Elum Lake in the Upper Yakima River Basin, jointly conducted by NMFS, the Bonneville Power Administration, the Yakima Indian Tribe and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

For the past four years, stock adult salmon in Lake Wenatchee have been trapped, their offspring reared and released at Cle Elum Lake to discover if they can survive the long, treacherous journey down the Yakima and the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean.

The first returning sockeye was released as a juvenile in 1989.

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Support your Union join CRFPU!

One need not look very far to see the dark shadows of picket signs all over the Northwest. Now more than ever, Unions are playing a big part in many people's lives, and many of us depend on them to support, organize and strengthen our continued way of life.

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union would like to remind Lower Columbia commercial fishermen that, like many organizations, we depend solely upon annual membership dues to keep us afloat and in touch with the many important issues facing the commercial fishing industry in the 1990s.

We've been making a difference, but now more than ever, it's clear we *do* need a union that represents *fishermen!* Things are happening quickly, and we must keep up or we'll surely lose ground.

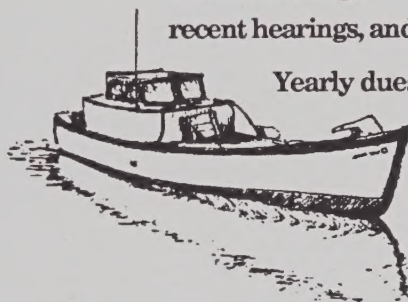
Attend meetings — we've been making some waves at recent hearings, and we need to continue to be heard!

Yearly dues to CRFPU are \$150, and include

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Use the clip-out on page 32.

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Early fall season doesn't rank with the best of 'em

The lower river season is spotty, but Youngs Bay coho catch is the best ever



Gillnetters fished a greatly improved run of coho during the early fall season this year on the Lower Columbia, but faced a disappointing showing of chinook salmon at the same time.

Two one-day (daylight only, coho target) openings on September 10 and 17 saw gillnetters take 12,380 chinook and 37,440 coho from the river, a fairly good showing for a 2-day season despite record-breaking 90-degree temperatures each day.

The true early fall chinook season on the lower river began on Sunday evening, September 22. Fishermen landed some 12,160 chinook during this 4-day week, the most fruitful week for chinook catches this season.

Fishermen caught some 30,000 chinook salmon this year, a bit less than the 34,000 landed last year, but still a significant improvement over the 14,000 netted in 1989.

Gillnetters caught a total of about 288,600 coho salmon during the 31-day season this year, after netting only 45,000 last season. Some 350,000 were caught in 1989, and 251,000 were landed in 1988.

Still, the river was pretty spotty. Some drifts, such as ones near Mayger and Rainier, had their best season in years, while others, just a few hundred fathoms away, weren't so lucky. Drifts near Cathlamet

and Clifton, for example, had below-par seasons.

Seals and sea lions were again making their presence well known to fishermen on the lower river, and once again they took big bites out of gillnetter's catches. "It's just real frustrating to haul in heads and tails — you can't get much for that," said one Astoria fisherman.

The area 2-S fishery, near Bonneville Dam, began on August 25 and commenced just four days later on August 28, a day short of the scheduled five day run. Fishermen netted 5,700 chinook during the short season, while just five coho were caught. Some 520 white sturgeon were landed as well.

The coho run in 2-S proved to be late, as the count at Bonneville was 1,500 on August 28, and increased to about 12,000 the very next day.

The Youngs Bay fishery, which has been building solid momentum every year, began on Sunday, August 18 and ended on Halloween night, recording a banner year of returning coho salmon. Nearly 81,000 silvers were netted by Youngs Bay fishermen this year, the best showing ever for this secondary district fishery.

And it couldn't have come at a better time for many fishermen. "It's really been a lifesaver for me, especially after a poor year in Alaska," said one Youngs Bay gillnetter.

Fishermen here caught a total of just 2138 chinook during the season, however, and only twelve white sturgeon.

Gillnetters received between 70 and 90 cents per pound for silvers and about 90 cents to \$1 for chinook this year both on the bay and the river.



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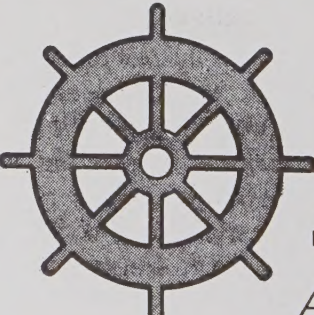
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BRIEFLY

Gillnet recycling program in works

CORDOVA, Alaska — Who says gillnets aren't "environmentally-friendly?" A program which recycles used, discarded gillnets into zippers, toothbrushes, office furniture, hair brushes and pulleys for popular exercise machines is already in place here, and could make its way to the Northwest.

Gillnets, made mostly of nylon, are very recyclable, according to Fran Recht, manager of the program sponsored by the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission. "If we can get enough nets, it will make it worthwhile to recycle them," she says.

Fishermen interested in the gillnet recycling program can contact Recht at the PMFC in Depoe Bay at 503-765-2229.

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The dammed Columbia: They knew it all along

Experts agree that more than 95% of fish mortality on the Columbia is caused by dams

Taken from a report published by the National Wildlife Federation in June, 1959

The Columbia River Basin of North America is uniquely blessed in the variety and richness of its natural resources. Its torrents, collected in far-flung tributaries from the high and forested slopes of the Rocky Mountains and the Cascades, pour 180 million acre-feet annually in a rapid drop to the Pacific Ocean, making this river system potentially one of the world's richest sources of hydroelectric power.

In any basin the least expensive hydroelectric sources are developed first. While Columbia Basin planners are contemplating proposals on more expensive hydroelectric sites other sources of power such as the fossil fuels and atomic power are exhibiting promise of catching up cost-wise.

Attracted by the region's timber, minerals and other resources, including the hydroelectric supply, manufacturing has made great strides in recent decades, doubling the demands for more electrical power. The new Dalles dam on the main stem of the Columbia, whose turbines started turning in 1957, had a major share of its power output pre-sold to one aluminum company.

Population increased 65 percent to about 3 million in the state of Washington, and by the same rate to about 2 million in Oregon, in the two decades since 1940.

Although greatly reduced and now cut off from more than 60 percent of their original spawning areas by man-made obstructions, the Columbia's anadromous fisheries — five kinds of salmon and steelhead trout — still support a major industry. Since the mid-1940's a greatly accelerated sports fishery has entered the picture. As the economy of the sport fishery approaches that of the commercial it is inevitable that changes in philosophy and regulations will occur. Regardless of how the salmon are taken the demand for more of them gets greater. At present, much of the development of the Basin has been at the expense of salmon and steelhead.

The Columbia River can be developed in such a way as to utilize the energy of its falling waters, to control its floods, to manage its fisheries and other renewable resources on a sustained-yield basis, and at the same time to save the best of its great scenic and wildness attractions.

Since some resources of the Columbia Basin have been developed at the expense of others, the public should insist that in the future all development will proceed only when it can be demonstrated that it is unnecessary to completely destroy important resources in order to utilize others.

Tributaries now open or relatively open to migrations of anadromous fish and presently supporting important percentages of the remaining salmon and steelhead fisheries, or which have high fish-producing potentials, must be kept open. Anadromous fish populations must not only be saved but should be enhanced and enlarged.

Until such time as new fish-passage devices have been discovered and proved to be effective in surmounting the deleterious effects now caused by dams on migratory fish survival, and new reservoirs authorized or constructed in the Columbia Basin must be confined to reaches and tributaries already closed to substantial runs of anadromous fishes by existing dams or natural barriers.

Research must be accelerated on problems related to the effect of dams on fish survival and on ways to overcome these problems. Complete answers to fish passage problems must be found before permission is granted to construct dams that now present barriers beyond man's ability to solve.

Reservoir projects which would yield important benefits in the public interest, while avoiding destructive and offsetting effects upon other resource values, should be granted high priority.

Research findings by the technical staffs of the state and federal agencies responsible and qualified to manage the resources must be the basis for appraising the effects of dams as well as regulations governing the harvest and utilization of fish and wildlife.

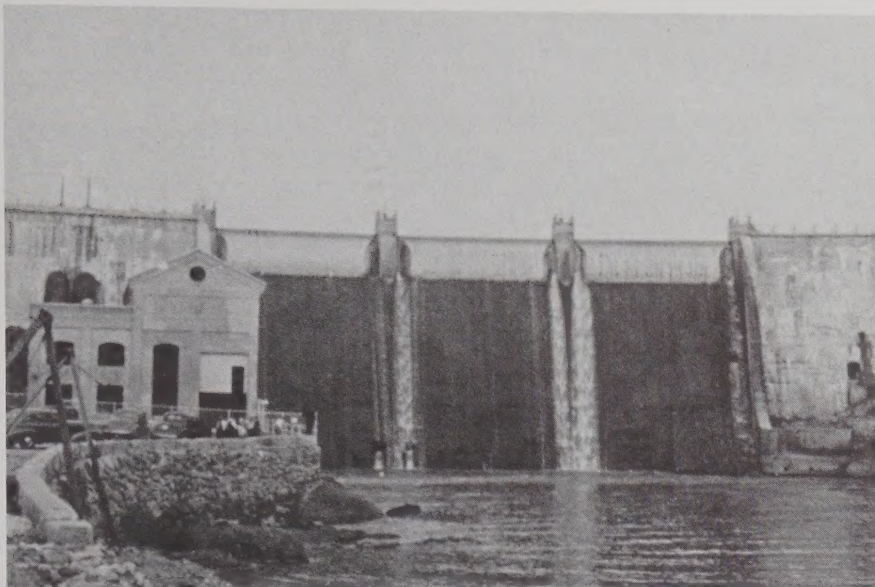
In the development of the Columbia Basin all of the natural laws which contribute to sound development must be coordinated so sustained yield benefits from ample supplies of soil, water, forests, minerals, fish and wildlife can be enjoyed by all. Watershed welfare has received scant consideration compared to downstream dam structures and major water developments.

Sixty-two percent of the Columbia Basin, including thousands of miles of first-class spawning waters, is now unavailable to salmon and steelhead, blocked off by Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee, Owyhee, Swan Falls and other dams. The available spawning waters have been further restricted — how seriously is not yet known — by the new Brownlee and Oxbow dams on the Snake River, by Pelton dam on the Deschutes, Mayfield on the Cowlitz and others.

Suggestions to save salmon include full development of dam sites within the blocked-off area for greatest power and flood control, while at the same time keeping the Clearwater, Grand Ronde, Imnaha, Salmon and Middle Snake as sanctuaries for fisheries production. Writing off any section unless the runs have been completely destroyed is not entirely necessary in all instances.

Other ways to help meet Northwest power needs beside building fish-killing dams might include: Hasten U.S.-Canadian cooperation in developing international parts of the Columbia; use steam generation to firm up large amounts of secondary power now wasted from existing dams; invest more money in atomic power research.

The Columbia River Fishery Development Program was planned with the concurrence (at least at the time) of all interested federal and state agencies. A part of the program desig-



This is the Black Canyon Dam, built on the Columbia in 1924 without any fish ladders. This dam, some 90 feet high, was responsible for killing off the entire Payette River runs of spring and fall chinook salmon, silver salmon, blue-back salmon, as well as spring and summer steelhead.

It could have easily been laddered over the top for full pool level, and by tunnel fishways through the dam for use when pool level was low.

The Black Canyon also killed off the last segment of the July run of Royal Chinook, the finest canning salmon on the river.

nated certain lower Columbia tributaries as sanctuaries for fish. This plan was formally endorsed by acts of the Oregon and Washington State legislatures. Since then other up-stream agreements have been made.

The purpose was to develop fully the fish-production potential of lower tributaries to mitigate in part for the damage to the fishery by big dams blocking fish migration. Excellent streams such as the Cowlitz and the Deschutes were to be kept free of new dams, and improved by removal of natural barriers and abandoned logging dams, and by construction of fish-passage devices at existing dams where this would work. Hatcheries were to be used to supplement natural spawning.

The fish sanctuary program has been breached. The Federal Power Commission licensed Pelton Dam on the Deschutes (upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court after long litigation). The FPC also authorized Mayfield Dam on the Cowlitz and Mossyrock. In both states valiant efforts by official agencies and citizen groups to save the sanctuary program did not prevent the building of the dams.

This breach of faith makes it more important than ever that the remaining areas of salmon and steelhead production in the upper reaches of the basin be preserved. Unless the remaining natural environment is saved and greater emphasis placed on research to enhance runs, the great fishery resources of the Columbia may well be lost for all time.

High dams like Grand Coulee (550 feet) and proposed Nez Perce (595 feet) completely eliminate salmon runs. No effective device has yet been perfected to get upstream spawners and downstream migrants over dams in excess of 100 feet high without enormous losses.

Salmon require running water passing over gravel beds at correct temperatures and oxygen content for spawning. Impoundments change long stretches of stream bed into deep still pools. The proposed series of low dams for the lower Snake (Little Goose, Lower Monumental, Lower Granite, etc.) would flood and destroy 130 miles of stream now used for spawning, even though fish might pass these sights.

Salmon enter the Columbia from the ocean with adequate energy to sustain them on the arduous trip to the spawning grounds. Salmon ordinarily arrive on desired spawning areas about the time when their reproductive organs are mature. A series of delays in negotiating fishways over dams may greatly influence the delicate natural timing. Death before spawning, or ineffective spawning, may result.

Young salmon going downstream to the ocean follow the greatest flow of water through turbines and over spillways where many are killed. Death may be due to changes in water pressure, lack of oxygen, mechanical injuries and other reasons. "Skimming" devices, held promising by some, are actually experimental and not proven effective as yet. High dam losses are greater than on low-head dams. Several low dams may create cumulative losses greater than a single high dam. Until a sufficient escapement of young salmon to the sea is assured the downstream loss of young salmon may doom future stocks.

Listed below are important proposed Columbia Basin dams, including some of the apparent effects on fish and wildlife.

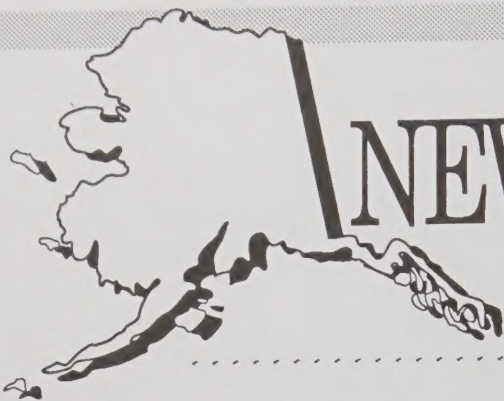
The Lower Monumental, Little Goose, Lower Granite, Asotin and China Gardens. These low-head navigation dams planned for the Lower Snake downstream from the proposed Nez Perce and High Mountain Sheep sites present a killing obstacle course for anadromous fishes. Similar to Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day and Ice Harbor dams, fish can be passed over but major losses occur at each. Cumulative damages may well destroy the entire runs on the Salmon, Grand Ronde, Clearwater and other spawning rivers.

The Nez Perce. 595 feet high, 6,000,000 acre feet storage. Would completely destroy great salmon and steelhead runs on the Salmon and Imnaha Rivers.

The Lower Canyon. 670 feet high, 3,700,000 acre feet storage. This dam on lower Salmon River would destroy great fish runs on that river. Dams at *Freedom* and *Crevice* sites on the Salmon would do similar damage.

The High Mountain Sheep. 660 feet high, 3,240,000

Continued on page 27



NEWS from the NORTH

Bristol Bay Strike: Was it worth it?

They say there's never a dull moment on Alaska's Bristol Bay, and that statement took on a new meaning this past summer when gillnet fishermen refused to put their nets in the water to fish for an initial 50-cent-per-pound price offer from processors.

Signs of "We won't fish for 50 cents" and "They've got to be kidding" lined the old wooden walls in fishermen's bunkhouses around the bay, where meetings were held two or three times a day to keep fishermen informed of the progress.

Like the bitter strike of 1982, this dispute was strong and intense, with rumors - and fists - flying as the pressure grew and the fish swam up the river.

But, unlike strikes before, this time there was a new face in the picture: the Japanese, who were blamed for keeping red prices down. The Japanese, who now buy nine out of every ten Bristol Bay

reds, said that they now can get salmon from other sources, (e.g. fish farms), cheaper than they can from Bristol Bay.

So, they said 50 cents was all they were going to pay for reds in 1991, after paying \$2.35 in 1988, \$1.25 in 1989 and \$1.05 last year.

But how quickly things changed when millions of salmon began pouring in to the bay system in late June - the price offer jumped to 55 cents, then 60, then 65 - and on the evening before the traditional peak of the run, July 4, fishermen reluctantly accepted a 70-cent offer.

Reports of big loads being caught by scabs out on the fishing grounds did little to calm the nerves of fishermen who know better than anyone that time is short on the bay, and two or three days, or even hours, can make a big difference on the bottom line.

On Tuesday, June 25, before things really started to heat up, virtually all of-

fices and businesses in Naknek, King Salmon and surrounding villages closed their doors in support of the boycott.

"Sure, it took a big dent out of my income, but I wanted to support the fishermen who support the towns," said one King Salmon merchant.

These small communities depend solely on fish taxes to pay for schools, roads, police and other services, so a low fish price affects more than just fishermen.

This rare community unity caught the attention of major media throughout the country, including the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and CNN.

That same evening, an Egegik opening was announced for the following day. In an unprecedented move, Alaska Gov. Wally Hickel ordered the period cancelled the next morning for fear of impending violence. "Bristol Bay is a volatile situation," Hickel said in a press release. "The people of the region and the fish-

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ermen are frustrated by the silence of the processors, the uncertainty of a price and the large number of salmon that are beginning to enter the rivers. To help relieve the tension and to ensure an orderly fishery, I am having the Egegik opening postponed."

Although this did not go over well with fishermen who wanted to fish, the majority of fishermen were elated with the decision. The "postponement" lasted a full two days, until a judge finally ordered the fishery open, citing the governor's lack of authority to make it stick.

But even then the unity of the striking fishermen was amazing, as only about 10 percent of the fleet fished during that first opening after the closure.

A total run of over 41 million red salmon entered the bay this year, much more than the 33 million projected before the season. Over 25.5 million were caught by gillnetters, about 10 million less than last year. Scab fishermen, some 15 to 20 percent of the fleet, caught 5 million reds before the strike ended, while striking fishermen only shared in a catch of about 20 million fish.

Surely the catch numbers would have been greater if not for the strike, but that didn't seem to be the point of it all. Many fishermen said, "If we fish for 50 cents this year, what will we get next year? We can't just look at today."

But some fishermen apparently needed

to think about today, most likely those who faced huge boat and permit payments. The fishermen who fished from day one didn't know how much they were being paid for their catches, but as one striking fisherman put it, "They knew they'd get the price we held out for all along."

But what of the Japanese price fixing? Mitch Kink of the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association is pushing for an investigation of Japanese control of the salmon market. "The blame has got to extend all the way to Tokyo," he says.

Alaska Congressman Don Young and California Congressman Leon Panetta have asked the General Accounting Office for an investigation of the charges.

"We'll be going to Washington D.C., trying to boot 'em in the butt to get them going. We have to resolve this within this winter so when we come up next spring we're ready to fish," Kink added.

Japanese price fixing may or may not be the cause of low fish prices, but it's clear that Bristol Bay may be in for a few lean years.

Many people, however, are convinced the Japanese are to blame. "They have not only stolen from the people of Alaska, they have stolen from the families, from the children, from the people who try to make a living honorably," says Dave Harrison, former Alaska state senator.

Upper Cook Inlet salmon season not one of the best

Sinking salmon prices hit hard throughout the state of Alaska this summer. Upper Cook Inlet gillnet fishermen received \$1.10 per pound for their sockeye, down from \$1.70 last year.

To add to the troubles, the run was one of the weakest the inlet has seen in years — gillnetters caught just 2.2 million fish — the lowest red harvest in the upper inlet since 1984. The record harvest came just four years ago, when fishermen netted 9.5 million sockeye in 1987.

Although state fishery managers said escapement goals were met in all major river systems, it was a grim year for cannery workers as well as fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula, where workers put in only about one-third of their usual hours.

"I made about \$300 this summer, after taxes," said one cannery worker in Kenai.

The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game is predicting a 1992 catch of more than twice that caught this year, but 1993 and 1994 do not look strong.

It is also not known what will happen to the price. If it holds at \$1 or above, 1992 should be better than 1991.

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Keisling's unpopular redistricting plan will stick

Despite vocal objections from hundreds of North Coast citizens, a controversial congressional redistricting plan which divides Clatsop County and removes popular State Representative Jackie Taylor, D-Astoria, from the local area that elected her, will stand.

The plan, developed by Secretary of State Phil Keisling, puts Astoria in a district with northern Columbia County, represented by Bruce Hugo, D-Scappoose. This district has many opposing interests, including gillnetters and longshoremen in the western part of the district, pitted against loggers and sport fishermen further up the river.

The rest of Clatsop County — including Warrenton, Hammond, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach — is placed in a district with much of Tillamook County, represented by Tim Josi, D-Bay City.

A local coalition, Citizens for Fair Districting, was created to speak out against the plan, which senselessly divides natural political boundaries, and splits communities which have shared, common interests and industries. The citizens who elected Taylor are now to be represented by someone completely unfamiliar with the local area.

"It's gotten so bizarre I might as well laugh as cry about it," Taylor says.

Todd Jones, a spokesman for Keisling's

office, said just 15 percent of Taylor's new district includes people she currently represents.

"It couldn't be less well served, I don't think, than to have Astoria in a district going upriver to the Multnomah County line and the rest of the county being served out of Tillamook. Clatsop County ended up bearing the brunt of the growth in Washington County and the Portland area," Taylor adds.

The local coalition prepared an alternative proposal which kept Clatsop County in a single district with major portions of

Columbia County, while St. Helens, Scappoose and the surrounding communities remained with the metropolitan area of Portland, but the high court would have none of it.

Taylor is unsure if she'll run for Hugo's seat in 1992, but says she definitely won't run against Josi.

Local groups which supported the redistricting challenge included the Port of Astoria, the local Democrat and Republican parties, the Greater Astoria Area Chamber of Commerce and the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners.



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AL WRIGHT:

This guy is all wet

Mr. Al Wright is anything but a fan of the Columbia River gillnet fishery.

Wright is the executive director of the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, which represents utility and industrial customers of the Bonneville Power Administration. He is also quite possibly the most outspoken opponent of commercial fisheries we've ever run across.

His latest round of off-the-wall statements was proudly printed in the September/October issue of *Northwest Energy News*, a publication of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Wright says: "The recreational and commercial fishery in the lower Columbia is still a major problem. I think we should simply buy the Zones 1 to 5 commercial gillnet fishery (below Bonneville Dam) out of existence, since it is actually a recreational fishery under the guise of commercialism," Wright says.

What exactly does that mean? Does that mean we're out braving the elements and risking life and limb for *fun*, we don't do it for the money?

Boy, is he off-base.

And he has more. "Recreational fishing is a sizeable industry on the Columbia River, and it should be maintained be-

Continued on page 29

Let's talk about Snag Pulling

Many Columbia River fishermen are enjoying fishing in waters free of snags. The waters are clear because a few fishermen, usually the same, have taken the time to remove the snags to reduce gear damage.

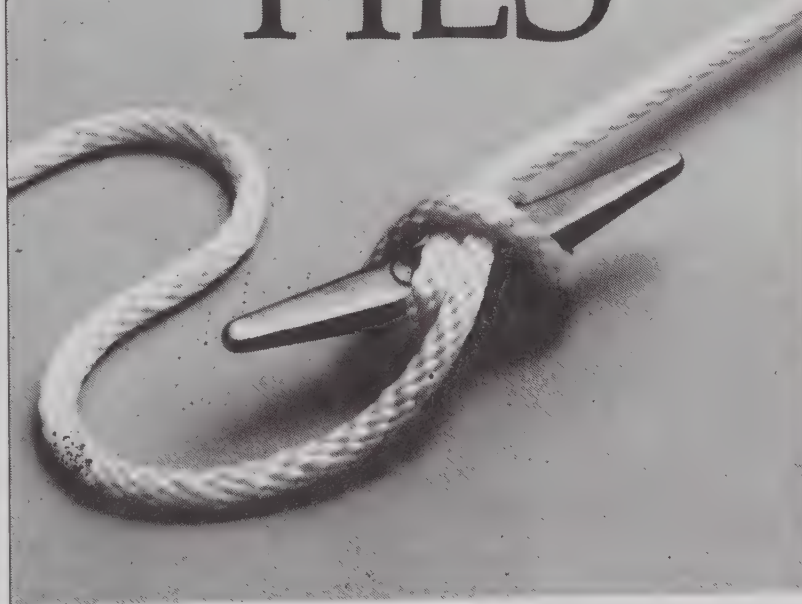
We hire divers, make new snag nets, and apply to the state for snag permits. We also have set up a Lower River Snag fund at the Astoria First Interstate Bank, under the signatures of Phil Johnson and Don Riswick. We ask fishermen from Tongue Point to the bar to pay \$50 per year in dues, tax deductible.

It is unfair for a few fishermen to shoulder the responsibility of keeping the lower river clear of snags, and our program cannot continue without your help. Many fishermen have never been out snagging, so here's a chance to contribute.

On page 32 is a special clipout to send in your dues. Don't put it off any longer — join the "snag club" today.

ATTENTION YOUNGS RIVER FISHERMEN: A snag fund has also been started for your fishery. Fish buyers have receipt books to take the \$20 yearly dues.

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To the Editor

Skyrocketing shad population is taking its toll on salmon smolts

I think there are two important issues in the controversy over declining salmon runs that have not been adequately addressed.

First, the Lower Columbia River waters have become much clearer over the years. Clear waters have a drastic negative effect on salmon smolts because they are exposed to more predators than in murky waters.

Second, the shad-salmon relationship has been ignored in fisheries research as far as I know. This relationship is becoming ever more important as shad runs increase to record levels.

May 18, 1980, Mt. St. Helens erupted, causing very severe silting conditions in the Columbia River from the Cowlitz River and westward. The Cowlitz continued to be murky for several years.

This murky water had a very positive effect on our outward-bound salmonoid smolts. Consequently, adult salmon and steelhead returns were much improved.

I wish to point out the similarity between these murky waters and former murky June Columbia River floodwaters, which occurred annually prior to dam construction. I believe these murky waters concealed outward-bound salmonoid smolts from various predators.

There are many salmonoid predators. An excellent article on this subject is in the State of Washington Dept. of Fisheries book of 1958.

Between 1970 and 1983 there was a steady decline in numbers of Upriver Fall Chinook adults entering the Columbia (*Status Report Columbia River Fish Runs and Fisheries, 1960-1990*). The next four years, 1983 to 1987, showed a very rapid increase, coinciding with smolts that went out in murky waters. 1987 exceeds three times the total of 1983.

As Columbia waters cleared, Upriver Fall Chinook salmon and steelhead smolts returning as adults decreased in

numbers very rapidly. Much the same trend exists for various other salmon according to the *Status Report*.

Another intriguing trend appears on page 54 of the *Report*, where shad runs are compared with salmon runs. It would appear that salmon smolts are adversely affected by increasing numbers of shad in the river. Adult shad entering the Columbia coincide with some of our salmonoid smolts going out.

Salmon smolts do not go directly to salt water, they linger for a while between salt and fresh water.

Shad are a non-native species that were held somewhat in check when the Columbia was free-flowing, prior to dam construction, possibly because the river was then murkier and cooler.

In 1960, less than 250,000 shad entered the Columbia. In 1990, the run consisted of approximately four million fish, having increased about two and one-half million in the past three years.

Shad, introduced into the Sacramento River in California in 1871-1880, has now become abundant on the Pacific Coast from Monterey Bay to Alaska. They enter rivers when water temperatures reach 56-60 degrees in May and June. The adults spawn and return to sea hungry.

Shad feed on insects, insect larvae, very small fish, crustaceans and minute plant forms. The shad fry go to sea when waters start cooling in the fall, and return as adults in the spring, three to four years later. (From the *Encyclopedia Americana*, vol. 24, 1972.)

What effect do four million adult shad in the Columbia River have on the food that our salmon and steelhead smolts require? And what is the effect of many more millions of shad fry inhabiting our rivers all summer?

In conclusion, the relationship between salmon and their predators have changed over the years as the Columbia River has become less murky and warmer. In contrast, many Alaskan rivers, which have consistently strong salmon runs, have cool glacial milky waters.

Additionally, the influence of the skyrocketing Columbia River shad runs needs to be evaluated and acted upon.

We hope to once again realize the vast potential our area affords.

—Walter Kandoll

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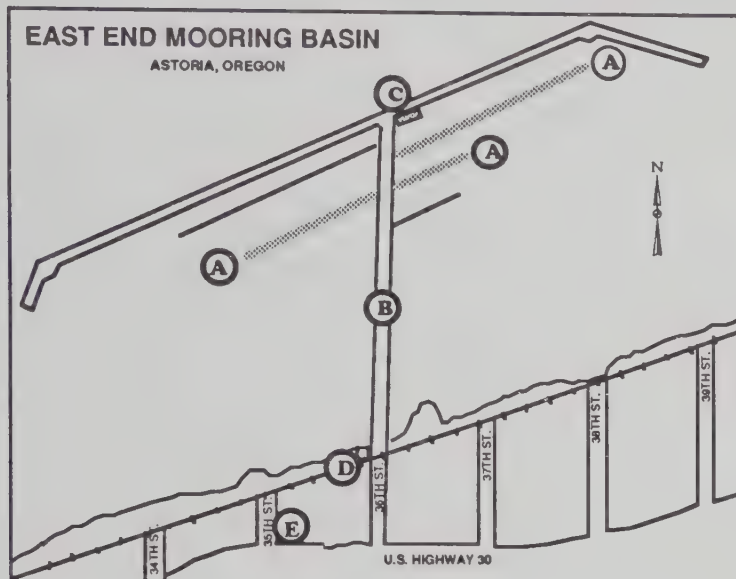
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PORT OF ASTORIA

Moving ahead on East End Expansion



East End Mooring Basin Planned Improvements

- Approximately \$700,000 in improvements to the East End Mooring Basin are now underway, with an additional \$210,000 in parking lot, lighting, boat ramp and other improvements anticipated to be completed by the summer of 1992.
- Dock installation work (A) will soon begin that will add 28 new berths for the present gillnet fleet, boosting small boat capacity to 50, and 16 new large boat berths.
- Resurfacing of the 36th Street causeway (B) with reinforced concrete has been completed.
- Installation of a 5,000-pound-capacity hoist (C) is upcoming.
- Construction of a shoreside restroom and office building (D) and paved parking lot (E) is planned for the summer of 1992.

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Salmon labeling law stopped short

A Washington State law which would have required supermarkets and other retail establishments that sell seafood to label the origin of their fish has been stopped short.

Although the bill was passed overwhelmingly in both the House and the Senate and was signed by Gov. Gardner this year, there were no allocated funds for the measure in the final Washington state budget, thus the bill became null and void.

Consumers would have been able to tell at a glance whether the fish they're considering buying was raised and caught in the wild, or was a product of a fish farm or ranching operation.

Fish farmers have long been reluctant to label their inferior product as "farm-raised," and commercial fishermen have long said that retailers are pawing off the cheaper farmed fish as wild fish to consumers.

"There's unquestionably a big difference between the fish that swims free in the wild and the fish that murk about in closed pens, wallowing in their own excrement," says a Washington commercial fisherman. "And we want consumers to see the difference in the supermarket," he adds.

The sponsor of the bill, Washington Rep. Harriet Spanel, says she will be back next session with an identical bill, and that she'll try to close any loophole that arises.



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Loggers say it's time to join forces with commercial fishermen

A growing number of timber industry representatives are urging commercial fishermen throughout the Northwest to join with them as a strong, united stand against the preservationists.

"The protectionist movement is bigger and more threatening than anything else we've ever faced," says Jackie Lang, state coordinator for the Oregon Lands Coalition. "We need some fishermen on the team," she adds.

Currently, the coalition has no commercial fishermen in its ranks, and if that doesn't change, both industries will suffer for it, she says.

Although the coalition is just three years old, its membership has grown to number more than 73,000 individual members, Lang says.

Since the northern spotted owl was declared a threatened species, more than 11.6 million acres of federal forest land

have been set aside and cannot be touched by Northwest loggers. Timber towns in both Oregon and Washington have already harshly felt the tight squeeze of the decision, and commercial fishermen fear it could happen to them next.

"Diversity is the key to credibility," Lang says. "We can exhaust ourselves pointing fingers at each other or we can band together to fight the monstrous enemy — the protectionist movement. It's bigger than any problem we've ever had with each other."

When you throw in the marbled murrelet, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed for a threatened species listing, the plot against both loggers and commercial fishermen thickens. This small bird, which ranges from Alaska to Central California, threatens to make these industries endangered species, and it may be too late.

The murrelet dives for food near the shore, so there is a small possibility it could become entangled in a nearshore gillnet, and gillnets are listed as one of two secondary threats to the species. The other is oil.

Gillnetters in Alaska's Prince William Sound could be the first to feel the pressure from the environmentalist attack.

John Thomas, Jr., a timber manager in the Willamette Valley, agrees that the only way to fight the environmentalists is to join forces. "Fishermen have to be united — all user groups — whether you're a hand troller, a gillnetter, a seiner, whatever you are. You have all got to be talking to the government with one voice," he says.

Let's make it a strong voice. If we don't, Thomas says, both industries could be "quietly excised from the cloth of the economy — one piece at a time."

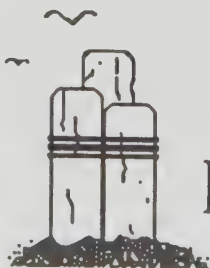
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But Bush may not exercise authority

Congress to get tough on driftnetting countries

The United States is beginning to get tough on countries who continue to use driftnets on the high seas.

A house panel has decided that enough is enough, and that the only effective way of dealing with the offending countries (Japan, Taiwan and South Korea) is to apply tariffs on their imported products — like televisions, VCR's, automobiles and fish.

Yes, fish.

The House Merchant Marine fisheries subcommittee has recently approved a bill that places mandatory tariffs on fish and fish products imported from a country using driftnets, beginning September, 1992.

"All nations who insist on using these curtains of death will feel the pinch where it hurts the most — in their pocketbooks and their export trade," says Washington Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, who has long been fighting to get the driftnets out of the water.

In 1990, the U.S. imported more than \$160 million worth of fish products from each of the three countries, which catch the fish (many that are bound for American waters) then sell it back to us a product of their own country.

At the same time, electronic product imports totalled some \$32 billion last year, thus a tariff would indeed hit them where it hurts the most.

"These nets steal our salmon and slaughter our marine mammals," agrees

Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass.

In addition to the stiff sanctions placed against fish and fish products effective next fall, all U.S. ports will be off-limits to driftnet vessels.

Under the new rule, President Bush would have embargo authority to place a tariff on any product coming from an offending country if the practice wasn't stopped within six months.

But Roddy Moscoso of the National Marine Fisheries Service wonders if the President would ever exercise that kind of authority. In the past, he has been reluctant to make any waves — especially in

Japan — but the wave of criticism against high-seas driftnetters is steadily growing, and Bush may not be able to look the other way much longer.

"We have problems with the bill in regard to presidential discretion," Moscoso said.

Taiwan has announced that it will stop its driftnetting operations on the high seas before July 1, 1992, while China, also an offending participator, has also promised to stop — even though the NMFS has observed several Chinese vessels recently fishing in the North Pacific.

—Related story on page 34

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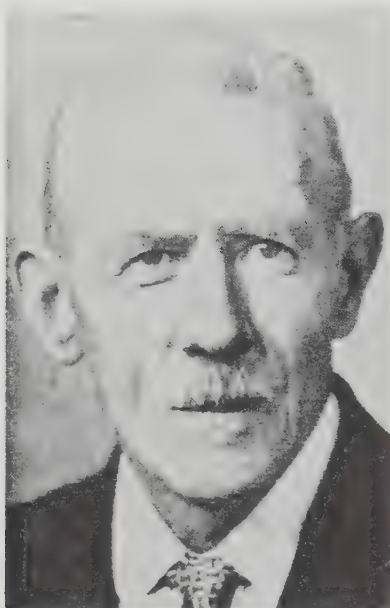
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John Riswick, veteran boat builder of Astoria, Oregon, has an unusual construction record. At the age of 63, he estimates that he has built 400 boats, fully one-half of them for service in Alaska.

Since the early days of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, Mr. Riswick has been building the Columbia River-type sailboats used in that area, where Riswick boats are frankly insisted upon by many fishermen.

Bristol Bay sailboats are his specialty, although he builds trollers and gillnet boats for the Columbia River as well.

Coming to the United States from Norway in 1888, Mr. Riswick settled at Astoria, where he almost immediately took up building. At first he gave some time to house building, with only occasional ventures in small boat building for local use.

Finding boats more to his liking, after several years he turned to boat building entirely and was associated with other boatbuilders of the time. With one of whom, Iver Anderson, he later worked in partnership, putting out some twenty-five gillnet boats for the Northwestern fisheries.

Independently, Riswick has built sailing gillnet boats for the Carlisle Packing Company, the Alaska-Portland Packers Association, Libby, McNeil & Libby, and others.

Just this spring he completed thirteen sailboats for Libby, McNeil & Libby. Among the other types of boats built by Mr. Riswick are motor gillnet boats, of both the stern-picker and bow-picker types, trollers and even a few small pleasure craft.

These motor fishing boats have

been built mostly for the Columbia River, Puget Sound and Oregon and Washington coast use. Among the Riswick-built trollers are a 29-footer for Martin Jorgenson; two boats, a 28-footer and a 34-footer, for Henry Jorgenson; a 29-footer for Jack Johnson, and one 32-footer each for Rangvold Eide and John Gunderson.

Just how Riswick boats have won their reputation is not easy even for him to explain. Just "general good seaworthiness" is his own suggestion.

Not a little of the fame which attaches to Riswick Bristol Bay boats may be traceable to the fact that he did fine cabinet work in Norway before coming to this country.

Born in Namsos, Norway, he learned the skillful use of wood-working tools in the shop of his father, who was a "general tradesman—a boat builder, carpenter, blacksmith, shoemaker and even a tailor."

Riswick sailing gillnetters are beamy and deep, differing in this from some of the other Bristol Bay craft. They are 29 feet long; 8 feet, ten inches in the beam and 34 inches deep. They are of the traditional Columbia River double-ended centerboard design, and carry a sprit sail. Framing is of oak, with Port Orford cedar planking and fir timbering.

Although most of his boats are built for Alaska use, Mr. Riswick has seen Alaska but twice. In 1900 he built a cannery on Bristol Bay for the Alaska Fishermen's Packing company, and went north for a short visit in 1902. The cannery he built was later sold to Libby, McNeil & Libby, who continued to use Riswick-built boats as well as a Riswick-built cannery.



AND THE RACE IS ON

Here are three classic Columbia River Gillnetters racing for the trophy in the gillnet boat races during the Astoria Regatta sometime in the 1940's. The races were a popular part of the Regatta celebration. Note the hundreds of spectators on the shore at the east end mooring basin. The other two captains are not known, but the center "helmsman" is John Tarabochia, Sr.



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Publishers of the Columbia River Gillnetter*

River channel could help salmon get past dams

SPOKANE — A proposal to dig a 300-mile-long channel in the Columbia River to help guide young salmon past the many hydroelectric dams is being considered as a possible, albeit expensive, long-term solution to the problem of declining fish runs.

Although the idea faces many obstacles before it comes to fruition, preliminary studies conducted by a committee of fisheries scientists and engineers from the University of Idaho, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the sport fishermen's group Trout Unlimited say it would be an effective way of increasing the numbers of salmon coming and going in the Columbia.

The goal of the volunteer committee, which has no representative of the commercial fishing industry in its ranks, is to discover a solution to dwindling fish runs "once and for all."

It has long been known that the dams on the Columbia River system make it awfully tough for returning salmon to reach their spawning grounds. The way is no easier for the juvenile salmon heading for the open Pacific.

But one of the major roadblocks facing the idea is funding. The committee has yet to find money for research, development or construction, or even propose an estimate of how much the project would cost.

"Suffice it to say, it wouldn't be cheap. But then again, the lifetime would be

long and the costs would be offset by the longevity," says Mike Satterwhite, spokesman for the committee.

"This needs to be approached systematically and carefully," he adds. "We've got a long way to go."

"It wouldn't be cheap. But then again, the lifetime would be long and the costs would be offset by the longevity."

—Mike Satterwhite

Another obstacle facing the proposal is guiding the fish into the channel once it's built. "We could do it by screening or diverting or attracting the migrants. The less handling, the better. I don't anticipate removing the fish physically and carrying them to the facility," says Ernie Brannon, a University of Idaho aquaculture professor and member of the channel study committee.

Jim Ruff, a Northwest Power Planning Council staff hydrologist, said the channel proposal was not taken seriously by the participants in last spring's Salmon Summit, who felt the idea was too similar to the existing bypass methods of trucking and barging the fish around the dams.

While the channel proposal is seen as a long-term solution, some say something needs to be done now, in the short-term, if we are to really make a difference in saving fish.

"The concept of a bypass channel is not relevant to the survival of Columbia River salmon runs," says Idaho conservationist Ed Chaney. "I don't want to demean creative thinking — God knows we need some. But we have to recognize this is a very long-term deal. It should not get in the way of doing what we know works," he says.

The proposed channel would begin near lower Granite Dam on the Snake, and end near Bonneville Dam on the Columbia, bypassing a total of eight dams which are seriously hindering fish migrations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also examining the channel idea, and will make a recommendation by 1993.

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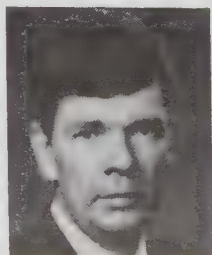
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"A Puget Island perspective" by Chris Doumit

I'm sure this will sound more like a commentary than an article, but here goes.

I may be wrong, but it seems to me that things are a little tense on the river this year, after a poor season last year, a poor season in Alaska, the strike situation in Alaska, and now a poor price here.

The fleet is hungry, they're competitive and they're on edge.

The events of the last year or so make it even more of a challenge to do what we need to do now: UNITE.

No matter how bad the guy in the channel corked you, or how much time the guy ahead of you on the drift took to pick up, we must still stand together — like it or not.

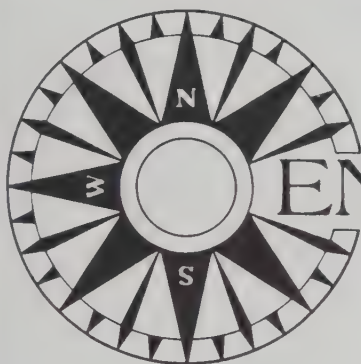
There are battles before us that are bigger and more powerful than all of us. Our only chance is to stick together and keep pushing the facts. In every case, and in every attack, the facts have proven that we are right in standing up for our fishery, and enhancing it.

But, we must remember that the facts don't always speak for themselves, politicians do. This means that every one of us on the river must pitch in, whether it's guiding a yacht around your net or working with a tug & barge in the ship channel. We must cooperate. Many of these people you work with may one day have a say in your future.

There are so many things going on, most of us have no idea. I think if we all make a point to become more familiar with the many important issues and ensuing battles, we'll all realize that no matter what happens on the fishing grounds, we've got to stand together in the hearing rooms, the state capitals, or wherever we need to. I think it's our greatest asset, and our only chance.

On a lighter note, we're still waiting for the results of a race between Troy Blix and Joseph Didricksen. Troy's boat is a Lindstrom-built bowpicker, Joe's is an aluminum Columbia Boat Works. I guess we'll have to wait and see!

—Chris Doumit is Second Vice President of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union



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Point Adams strike comes to an end

HAMMOND — Although picket signs still stand in other parts of the north coast, a near six-week-long strike came to an end here in late October when the some one-hundred workers at Point Adams Packing Co. accepted a new three-year contract.

The pact, reached between Local 555 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and the Point Adams Company, creates a base worker pay rate of \$5 per hour, a 25-cent raise over the state minimum wage, according to Darrell Coffey, assistant director of collective bargaining for the union.

In addition to the wage increase, the

settlement contract also includes an important health and welfare benefit insurance package, which is fully funded by management.

"There was no way I was gonna give up that," said one striking worker.

As is the case in many strikes, this one was not without incident — a brick was reportedly thrown through the window of a car driven by a striking worker. No one was injured.

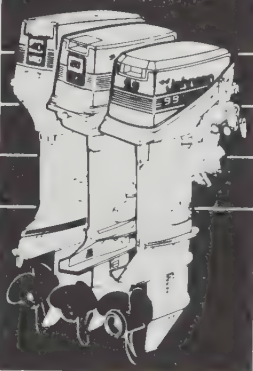
With the base pay hike comes a 20-cent-per hour raise for journeyman workers, a half-cent raise for filleters, as well as a healthy raise for crab pickers. Fresh crab pickers will now receive 44 cents per

pound for their work, while frozen crab pickers will get 50 cents per pound for their labors.

The contract settlement procedure got a shot in the arm when a federal strike mediator stepped in in mid-October, giving amnesty to workers and the union, as well as to management, for any contended grievance filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

On strike from Wednesday, September 11 until Friday, October 18, Point Adams workers were supported and joined on the picket line by members of other local unions, including the Longshoremen's and the Teamsters.

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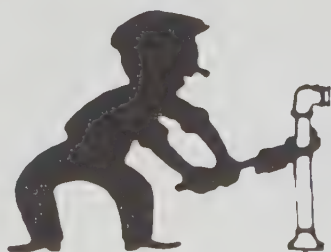
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Did you Know?

The historic, colorful story of the dauntless Columbia River Gillnetter has been captured and preserved in a 30-minute video documentary called "Work is our Joy."

A combined effort of the Oregon State University Sea Grant program, author Irene Martin and the Columbia River Maritime Museum, the slide/tape presentation thoughtfully portrays the Columbia River gillnetter from his humble beginnings in the 1800s to the present.

It is available at the CRFPU office, or at the OSU Seafood Laboratory at 250 36th street, Astoria, for \$25. The video can be mailed to you for a \$3 charge.

If you haven't had the opportunity to see this creative, entertaining work, now is the time, as quantities are limited. It is truly a sensitive, one-of-a-kind recollection of the history of the gillnetter — and it makes a great Christmas gift!

Call 325-2702 for more information on "Work is our Joy."

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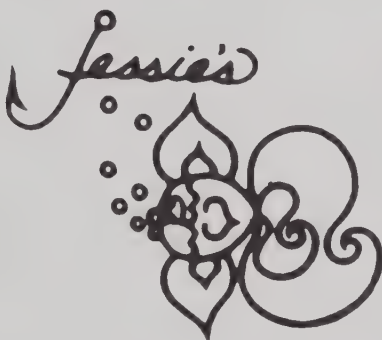
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Computer simulates river system

A computer model which simulates the journey through the reservoirs and past the dams on the Columbia River was featured at a series of training workshops recently held at the University of Washington, and could assist fisheries officials in developing a future recovery plan for salmon.

The computer program, called the Columbia River Salmon Passage model or CRISP, was developed at UW's Center for Quantitative Science under a contract with the Bonneville Power Administration. It took more than three years to complete.

CRISP displays, in color graphics, the outline of the entire Columbia River system from the mouth to the state of Idaho. It calculates the influences of varying hatchery release dates, reservoir levels and water flow rates. It also predicts, given certain factors, how many fish would make it to the Pacific under certain specific conditions.

The many individual variable elements in the program, like the speed of migration and the chance of survival in negotiating a dam, are converted into mathematical formulas by the computer, then used as a guideline in the program which stimulates the downstream trip.

The sophisticated computer model illuminates the complexity of the river system, and pinpoints obstacles along the way. It could be an important part of a future plan to save fish runs.

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Wild fish may not survive logging management plan

Columbia River wild salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout might not be able to withstand the harsh effects of logging and road construction in our troubled, delicate watersheds under new forest management plans, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The plan reportedly says the management proposal falls far short of what is actually needed to protect and preserve wild fish stocks in the Columbia watershed — especially in West Coast national forests.

The agency's top fisheries biologists told a congressional subcommittee in late October that if current forest logging and destruction practices continue, as they are likely to do under the new plan, "the decline and extinction of native fishes over vast portions of their range" would be the result, says Paul Brouha, executive director of the association of professional fisheries biologists.

Other witnesses told the committee that present fish-protection plans in the forests are very poorly coordinated and are woefully inadequate to protect native wild salmon and steelhead.

It has long been known that current logging practices in the Columbia ecosystem have had a devastating effect on spawning streams in the watershed for years, but it's only now that things are really starting to happen.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that

this plan is on the right track.

If adopted, the fish-protection measures would further reduce the amount of federal forest land available to logging companies in the watersheds of the Oregon Coast Range, the Olympic Peninsula, the Oregon/Washington Cascades and California's Klamath and Sierra Nevada mountains, but only by a small percentage.

Wider forest buffers would be required alongside streams, while streamside cattle grazing would also be restricted. Non-essential roads would have to be removed, new road construction would be very limited, and would have to be built with

stream protection a high priority.

In watersheds which provide habitat for troubled wild fish stocks, 180-year to 200-year logging rotations would be put in place, more than double the 80-year rotation typically followed in most Northwest forests.

The Forest Service spent more than a decade spending hundreds of millions of dollars developing this comprehensive forest-management plan, which hopefully balances timber harvesting with protection of natural resources. The new measures are fine as far as they go, but they may not go far enough.

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New panel chief promises "golden era"

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Northwest Power Planning Council has a new chairman.

Mr. Ted Hallock, a public relations executive and former Oregon legislator, was chosen for the post by Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts October 10.

Hallock, who will serve a one-year term, promises a "new golden era" in which the power council will not be guided solely by the hand of the region's power industry.

He says the council has also essentially ignored the fact that 95 percent of all human-caused salmon deaths on the Columbia are caused by hydroelectric dams.

"The council devoted 10 years to improving habitat, hatchery techniques and artificial supplementation of wild runs," Hallock said in a recent interview with the *Spokane Chronicle*. "The council, which can't be faulted for doing it, focused on fish, not the things that were killing fish," he added.

Hallock, who has served on the council as an Oregon representative for the past three years, contends the council has been unquestionably "totally dictated by the power industry," since he began serving on the council, and he has set out to change things.

The council, which has just completed

a series of important public-comment hearings on a new fish protection plan recommendation to the National Marine Fisheries Service, was created by Congress in 1981, with the designated roles of planning for the region's power and energy needs while concurrently protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife.

The panel will prepare a final recommendation plan for the department before the end of the year.

The council panel includes two representatives each from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Dan Evans, a U.S. Senator from Washington, was the council's first chairman.



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Dams *continued*

acre feet storage. This dam would block the important fish runs of the Imnaha and upper Snake rivers.

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The Wenaha. 570 feet high, 1,250,000 acre feet storage. Would block runs of salmon and steelhead on Grand Ronde River.

The Mayfield and Mossyrock. These dams would greatly reduce if not destroy salmon runs on the Cowlitz River, a key area of the Lower Columbia Fish Sanctuary Program.

Dams and other man-made changes undoubtedly exert influences on fish not yet even considered by biologists. Changes in temperature, water flows, chemical content, food supply and various combinations may be completely different at each impoundment with the result that what might work at one site would be complete-

ly wrong at another. Undesirable fish might thrive and the wanted kinds die out. Large reservoirs may reduce the instinct of certain salmon to migrate to the ocean. Adult upstream migrators might become hopelessly confused by numerous artificial devices, each one successful separately, to the extent that no spawning is sufficient. Unknown factors are probably more important in attempting to save salmon and steelhead than are the obvious problems.

Research has not yet solved the problem of passing either young or mature fish over high dams. Nor has it eliminated delays and losses at a series of low dams. It has hardly scratched the surface in exploring the basic changes in environment caused by converting a running stream into slack-water reservoirs, or in finding out how reservoir drawdowns may best be managed to do the least harm to salmon and steelhead.

Biologists and engineers are working on devices which are intended to provide pas-

sage for adult and young anadromous fish over dams with minimum injury and mortality. They are experimenting with fish losses at turbines, studying electrical barriers, sonic guides, light attractors and other devices. Other work involves artificial spawning facilities. Little of this research is far enough along for proof positive breakthroughs on major problems. No one can predict when the answers may be found.

More research is absolutely necessary. Applied studies and basic fish behavior information are both vital if migratory fish are to remain a part of the grand plan for comprehensive development of the Columbia Basin. Even with unlimited funds and facilities the solving of these tremendous fish problems would tax the very best of America's reputed know-how.

An even greater challenge is posed in the question of whether the public is willing to provide the funds for research or lose forever a vital resource and heritage.

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Killing of salmon has fishermen up in arms

NEHALEM — An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 adult coho salmon were snatched from their hatchery spawning habitat and sold to the highest bidder this fall.

Another 8,000 to 9,000 were allowed to flip-flop themselves to death on the concrete at the Nehalem Salmon Hatchery, according to Manager Gary Yeager.

Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife say an extraordinarily high number of hatchery coho returned to the Nehalem this year, due to high survival rates in the ocean and fishing quotas in place to protect the wild coho.

Under normal conditions, only a few hundred fish are needed to be sold as excess, but the unexpected number forced quick bids from fish-buying wholesalers.

The excess fish, which is the amount over the 800 needed to propagate the some 8,000 fry next spring, cannot be returned to the North Fork of the Nehalem River just above the hatchery.

Why not? Under a new policy, the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife will permit only wild coho to enter "natural habitat" areas, including the 30-mile stretch above the Nehalem Hatchery, according to Bob Buckman, North Coast District fish biologist for the department.

"It makes good management sense not to release hatchery fish into habitat that could be used for self-sustaining natural coho populations," Buckman says. "Biologically, it's a better way to do it."

A definite, workable wild fish management plan has yet to be worked out for the North Fork of the Nehalem. Biologists first need to discover if there are any wild coho upriver, according to Buckman.

An exhaustive survey planned for later this winter should determine if there are wild fish, a mix of wild and hatchery, or even possibly remnants of fish introduced there from another area.

Ocean Star Seafoods of Bellingham was the top bidder, and paid \$2 for adult coho, (that's per fish not per pound), 5 cents for jacks and \$1.75 for cluster eggs.

The Northwest Trollers Association, based in Garibaldi, has threatened a lawsuit against the department over the fish kill. "They won't let us catch them, but they'll let them die on the concrete," said one Oregon troller.

Regional Fish Advisory Board: Kent Martin calls it quits

Kent Martin, one of two commercial fishermen representatives on the Washington Dept. of Fisheries' Columbia River Regional Fish Advisory Board, has submitted his resignation.

Citing a lack of communication between board members, Martin says commercial fishermen just aren't having an impact on the decisions being made.

"When I can read in the paper or find out through a phone call that a unilateral decision affecting my fishery has been made without my or anyone else's knowledge, or has been made in an attempt to placate malcontents without regard for those whom the decision hurts, it is plain to me

my advice is held in low esteem," Martin says. "I refuse to be a figurehead advisor. I will not be a part to the destruction of the economic and cultural heritage of the Columbia River Gillnet fishery."

Martin says his decision was especially influenced by the board's decision to take away the commercial spring salmon season on the Columbia — without even discussing the matter. He has been asked by Joe Blum, Director of the WDF, to reconsider his decision.

Bob Sudar of Stella, Wash., the other fisherman on the board, remains. Martin will continue his advisory position on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.



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AL WRIGHT

cause it provides benefits to a lot of communities," Wright claims.

What about Cathlamet? Warrenton? Longview? Clatskanie? Astoria? Garibaldi? Skamokawa? Hammond? Rainier? Knappa? Kalama? Don't these communities benefit from commercial fishing? Come on!

How anyone can say this with a straight face is beyond us, but better yet, how an important publication of the respected Northwest Power Planning Council can *print* such rubbish is a more pertinent question. Did they think we wouldn't notice?

There's no question that commercial fisheries and its industries generate millions of dollars for hundreds of communities and thousands of people throughout Oregon and Washington, and it's just plain silly for anyone to try to claim otherwise.

But Wright even goes as far as to say that Columbia River gillnetters are somehow akin to the "frontiersmen" from hundreds of years back who hunted and killed to survive.

He says: "We are an affluent, well-fed, well-sheltered society. We are not frontiersmen who must exploit natural resources to survive."

How can this man say that gillnetters are exploiting our natural resources when it is now known that hydroelectric dams kill 95 percent of all returning salmon and steelhead on the Columbia? Even if gillnetters catch the other 5 percent, that could hardly be called *exploiting*.

Wright says we fish to survive. Yes, it is true that many, many communities in the northwest *do* depend chiefly on commercial fishing industries to keep their doors open, so maybe it is a matter of survival.

Wright wants the state to buy out gillnetters. But where will the money come from?

And what about the business owners in all these towns? We're not just talking about a few people here, either, thousands of people would be adversely affected in two states. Isn't this country in bad enough shape that we have to make things worse?

We're here fighting amongst ourselves while President Bush is busy vetoing anything that even resembles a benefit for the working man, and yet some people are pushing to eliminate entire industries which have very little impact on the actual problem of declining fish runs.

What does have an impact on our fish runs? Dams.

Ed Chaney, director of the Northwest Resource Information Center, also interviewed in *Energy News*, agrees with the 95 percent dam-kill theory.

"Only one thing threatens the extinction of wild Columbia River basin salmon and steelhead: improperly designed and operated mainstem Columbia and Snake River dams," he says.

Chaney also says that two things are essential to restore wild salmon and dependent economies in the northwest, and they make good sense:

1) The velocity of streamflow through the series of mainstem reservoirs must be substantially increased to transport juvenile fish to the ocean on a biologically-timed basis, and

2) Juvenile and adult fish passage facilities at the four lower Snake River dams must be modified to operate at variable drawdown levels.

Chaney adds that electric ratepayers will eventually pay the price of the necessary hydrosystem changes to restore wild salmon runs, but that is appropriately so.

"Ratepayers have long been the beneficiaries of cheap power highly subsidized at public expense, including the unnecessary expense of devastated fish runs and dependent regional economies," he says.

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ODF&W workers give coho helping hand

CASCADE LOCKS — More than one-thousand thrashing coho salmon returned to a natural spawning stream in Wahkeena Creek this fall, much to the dismay of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Initially, the salmon had hatched in the Oxbow hatchery near here, then the fry were trucked to Wahkeena Pond. When the fish had grown to smolts, they were released through a culvert that runs under Interstate 84 into Wahkeena Creek, which ultimately drains into the Columbia.

Now the fish have returned from their Pacific Ocean journey to spawn, and

their natural instincts tell them this is the place.

They were supposed to be diverted by a fence built by ODF&W workers at the creek's mouth near Multnomah Falls, but, over the years, soil erosion gave the returning fish just enough room to squeeze by into the stream.

So, in late September, fish and wildlife officials had to use a net to force the salmon back into the Columbia to spawn in another location.

Wildlife officials say the fish could not have spawned in the muddy, cloudy creek, anyway, as they need rocks and rushing water.



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Fish Expo

New V-12 Lugger steals the show

SEATTLE — The 1991 Fish Exposition in Seattle proved to be a raving success, with hundreds of spectators sampling the wares of hundreds of marine retailers from throughout the Northwest and Canada.

One of the stars of the show, held in October, was Lugger's new V-12 diesel — a sweetheart of an engine with a healthy output of 950 to a whopping 1300 horsepower.

Lugger engines are based on proven Komatsu industrial diesels, converted for marine use by Seattle's Alaska Diesel Electric.

The new Lugger 12V140A is a twelve-cylinder, four cycle, turbocharged, after-cooled and direct-injected marine diesel based on the heavy-duty Komatsu industrial block.

Luggers are rapidly earning a reputation as the Cadillacs of the industry, and are also now being seen on large yachts as well as a good number of commercial vessels.

Another popular display at the Expo was Alpine's 9525 cellular phone, built just a bit stronger for marine use. Cellular phones are rapidly becoming the fisherman's choice over conventional VHF radios, as reception is much clearer, and the cost is much cheaper than a typical VHF operator-assisted ship-to-shore call.

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Japanese fishermen launch pro-driftnet lobby

Japanese fishermen have launched an unbelievably deceitful last-ditch effort to defend their driftnetting practices on the high seas.

Washington State Rep. Jolene Unsoeld says that the Asian fishermen are claiming that they have research findings which prove that the miles-long driftnets are environmentally sound, and do not catch any other type of sealife.

"If one is to believe this desperate, deceptive and far-fetched campaign, driftnet fishing on the high seas is just fine and dandy and the United States is trying to take away the livelihood of innocent fishermen. What baloney!" says Unsoeld.

She adds that the world "knows better than to believe Japan."

These North Pacific driftnets, which are more than 100 times longer and much deeper than Columbia River gillnets, use monofilament meshes which have been banned on the river for years, to fish for squid. The driftnets are much less discriminate than Columbia River gillnets, and all too often do not allow non-target sealife to escape.

But it is common knowledge that these high-seas nets catch much more than squid — including thousands of prized salmon bound for our waters. These fish are caught, processed, then sold back to us as a product of Japan.

The Japanese have a different view of driftnet fishing, however, and also are claiming that the U.S. government is deliberately concealing important scientific data which minimizes the ecological threat of driftnets, while concurrently pushing to ban all high-seas driftnetting.

"It's purely political," says Alan Macnow, representing the Japan Fisheries Association. The group says fishermen in Alaska, Oregon and Washington have the notion that the Japanese and Asian fishermen are stealing their salmon, and they say that's just not the case.

But Roddy Moscoso, spokesperson for the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, says the same scientific data the Japanese are citing clearly shows that North Pacific driftnet fishing is a "wasteful, environmentally-destructive" practice that indiscriminately kills one non-target fish, marine mammal or sea bird for every two target squid it catches.

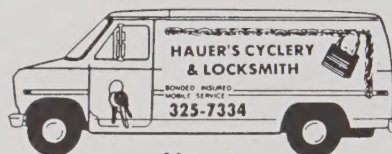
"It is nothing but completely, utterly in-

sulting to be suggested by the Japanese that we have bent the data in any way," Moscoso adds.

The results of a scientific report conducted this year by the NMFS conclude that more than 41 million individuals of over 100 different species of sealife were taken by the Japanese from the North Pacific in 1990, as the Japanese driftnet fishery harvested more than 100 million neon flying squid.

The report estimates the by-catch at nearly 40 million fish, including almost 150,000 salmon, 700,000 blue shark, 26,000 marine mammals, 400 sea turtles and more than 270,000 sea birds.

—Related story on page 17



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Serious about marine mammals

— The U.S. Coast Guard seized three American trawlers this summer for fishing within 12 miles of a walrus rookery near Bristol Bay, Alaska.

The *American No. 1* and the *Distant Water* were found with their nets in the water

inside the closed area of Round Island. A third vessel, the *Bering Enterprise*, was seized after an inspection of the vessel's logbook showed it had been fishing in the same area.

The 12 miles surrounding Round Island are closed April 1 to September 30.



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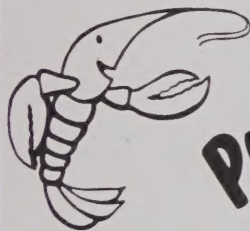


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Hit and run — The British trawler *Wilhelmina J* was struck and sunk last spring by the *Zulfiker*, an 8000-ton Cyprus cargo ship running at full throttle.

The fishing vessel was apparently swung broadside by the larger vessel, then capsized under the enormous weight of the ship's bulbous bow. The *Zulfiker* did not stop, and continued on its way to Cyprus, where the ship's officers were detained by police officials.

All six fishermen aboard the *Wilhelmina J* were lost, while only two bodies have been found.

An April investigation revealed that the trawler had been hauling in her nets when she was struck broadside by the traveling freighter. The vessel appeared to have foundered within moments after the great impact.

No oil drilling in Bristol Bay at least for now

— There won't be any drilling for oil in Alaska's fish-rich Bristol Bay — at least for now.

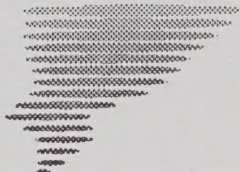
This summer, the House of Representatives voted 435 to 76 in favor of another one-year moratorium. Senate approval, which came later, was also lopsided.

The North Aleutian Basin Sale 92, the area designated for possible drilling, lies just north of Port Moller in Bristol Bay. Geologists estimate this site, if produced, could yield only about 30 million barrels of oil, enough to meet the nation's needs for just two days.

"It's not a lot of oil," says Richard Kornbrath, a petroleum geologist with the Alaska State Division of Oil and Gas.

Plans to buyback the oil lease, worth about \$175 million, continue. A bill must be submitted to Congress which would authorize a cancellation and repurchase plan.

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Predator program saves millions of salmon

Millions of baby salmon have survived this year thanks to the Squawfish Management Program sponsored by the Bonneville Power Administration.

The program removed some 210,000 salmon-eating northern squawfish from the Lower Columbia and Snake rivers in 1991. About 66,000 anglers caught 160,000 of the pesky predators, receiving \$3 each.

The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife coordinated the squawfish program, while the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife administered the reward fishery in which several commercial fishermen participated.

The region's Indian Tribes organized a fishery near dams which netted another 40,000 squawfish, while another 10,000 were caught through various predator research programs.

The squawfish program is scheduled to resume in the spring of 1992.

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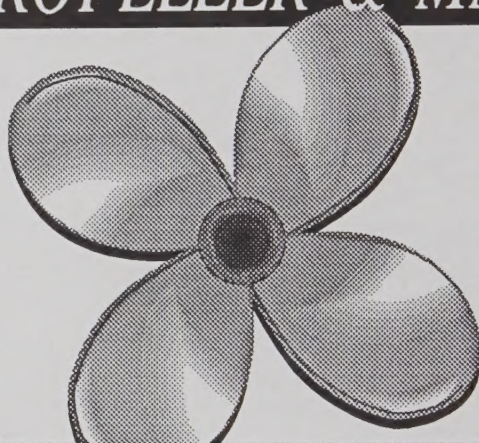
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